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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (see A/62/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 26th and 32nd meetings, on 13 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 32).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.30 and A/C.2/62/L.55

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/62/L.30), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005 and 61/213 of 20 December 2006,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/62/423 and Add.1-3.

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"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

"*Recalling further* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Expressing its concern* that, even after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Encouraged* by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

"*Recognizing* that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and concerned that global economic growth experienced during the first Decade was in general a jobless growth,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"2. *Recognizes* the contribution that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty made towards poverty eradication which includes, inter alia, the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Proclaims* the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"4. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and calls for the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"5. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

"6. *Urges* all Member States, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue the objective of the eradication of poverty in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to pursue seriously the objective of poverty eradication and to scale up the support to the efforts of middle income countries during the Second United Nations Decade regardless of their level of development, since those countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication;

"8. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"10. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

"11. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen efforts to eradicate the scourges of poverty and hunger and to make that goal the central priority of national development strategies and international development cooperation;

"12. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and underlines that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

"13. *Recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

"14. *Reaffirms* the commitment to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and

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norm-setting, and stresses the need to continue efforts to reform the international financial architecture, including expeditiously concluding, in a time-bound manner, the issue of enhanced voting power of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions;

"15. *Recognizes* the importance of official development assistance as a major source of financing development for developing countries, and urges developed countries to fulfil the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance;

"16. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report containing comprehensive recommendations and a plan of action to make the Second Decade effective;

"18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled 'Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/62/L.55), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Tamar Tchitanava (Georgia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.55 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Japan and Croatia (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005 and 61/213 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Expressing concern that, after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and midway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target date, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

Encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

Acknowledging that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Recognizes* that during the implementation of the first Decade the international community adopted, inter alia, the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] which are mechanisms to focus national, regional and international efforts towards achieving poverty eradication;

3. *Proclaims* the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

5. *Urges* all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty;

6. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

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[5] A/62/267.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

10. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

11. *Also recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

12. *Further recognizes* the importance of official development assistance as a source of financing development for developing countries, calls for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report containing recommendations on how to make the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) effective, in support of the poverty eradication-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)".

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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (see A/62/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 26th and 32nd meetings, on 13 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 32).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.31 and A/C.2/62/L.50

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/62/L.31), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004 and 60/210 of 22 December 2005 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/62/423 and Add.1-3.

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"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and recalling the outcomes of all other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, in combating diseases and in stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

"*Stressing* the importance of creating a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life for the effective integration of women in development,

"*Recognizing* that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of the full enjoyment of human rights by women severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunity for education and economic and political empowerment,

"*Reaffirming* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

"*Reaffirming also* the significant contribution that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

"*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

"*Noting* that gender biases in labour markets and women's lack of control over their own labour and earned income are also major factors in women's vulnerability to poverty, and noting as well that women's disproportionate responsibilities for domestic work result in a lack of economic autonomy and influence in economic decision-making within households,

"*Recognizing* that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology, and employment opportunities are

important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

"*Recognizing also*, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

"*Reaffirming* the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015 and that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular, inter alia, in business, trade, administration, information and communication technologies and other new technologies, and the elimination of gender inequalities at all levels, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allow women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

"*Recognizing* that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

"*Aware* that, while globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have also made women, especially in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility, including in the agricultural sector, and that special support, particularly for women who are small-scale farmers, and empowerment are necessary to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

"*Expressing its concern* that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the denial and lack of equal rights and access of women to education, training, information, support services and credit facilities, salaries, and control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production,

"*Also expressing its concern* about the underrepresentation of women in political and economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies and programmes,

"*Noting* the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development, and noting the work done by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

"3. *Encourages* Member States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system to accelerate efforts to increase the number of women in decision-making and to build their capacity as agents of change, and to empower women to participate actively and effectively in the development and implementation of poverty eradication policies, strategies and programmes;

"4. *Encourages* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of all development and poverty eradication strategies, and in this regard, calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building;

"5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in formulating national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

"6. *Further encourages* Member States to continue to increase women's representation and participation in government decision-making so as to ensure that the priorities, needs and contributions of women are taken into consideration by, inter alia, providing access to training, developing measures to reconcile family and professional responsibilities, and eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions;

"7. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and the implications of violence against women and girls for the social and economic development of communities and States, and calls upon States to elaborate and implement plans of action to eliminate violence against women and girls;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

"9. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes to gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

"10. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to bank

loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women, and to support women's access to legal assistance, and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

"11. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions and the private sector;

"12. *Urges* Member States to encourage women entrepreneurs, including through education and training of women in business, administration and information and communications technology, and invites business associations to assist national efforts in this regard;

"13. *Also urges* Member States to design and revise laws that ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital and appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

"14. *Recognizes* the need to empower women economically and politically, particularly poor women, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, as well as to create opportunities for economic empowerment, in order to alleviate for women and girls the burden of time-consuming everyday tasks;

"15. *Expresses its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis, and calls upon Governments and the international community to intensify efforts towards the goal of universal access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010;

"16. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

"17. *Recognizes* the need for a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources to developing countries in order for them to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second

World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits, and calls upon the international community to provide the necessary financial resources and other assistance in this regard;

"18. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

"19. *Stresses* the importance of collecting and exchanging all relevant information needed on the role of women in development, including data on international migration, as well as the need to develop statistics disaggregated by age and sex, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

"20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'Women in development'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/62/L.50), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.31.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.50 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.50, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004 and 60/210 of 22 December 2005 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,[1]

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and recalling the outcomes of all other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, in combating diseases and in stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

Taking note with appreciation of the discussion on women in development in the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, and recalling its agreed conclusions on "Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work",[6]

Recognizing that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of the full enjoyment of human rights by women severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunity for education and economic and political empowerment,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2006/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Reaffirming also the significant contribution that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Noting that gender biases in labour markets and women's lack of control over their own labour and earned income are also major factors in women's vulnerability to poverty, and, together with women's disproportionate responsibilities for domestic work, result in a lack of economic autonomy and influence in economic decision-making within households and in society at all levels,

Recognizing that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology, and employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

Recognizing also, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political and fundamental freedoms for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Reaffirming the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015 and that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular, inter alia, in business, trade, administration, information and communication technologies and other new technologies, as well as the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels, is essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allow women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

Aware that, while globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have also made some women, especially in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility, including in the agricultural sector, and that special support, particularly for women

who are small-scale farmers, and empowerment are necessary to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization,

Recognizing that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

Expressing its concern that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the denial and lack of equal rights and lack of access of women to education, training, information, support services and credit facilities, salaries, and control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production,

Also expressing its concern about the underrepresentation of women in political and economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies and programmes,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[4]

3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

4. *Stresses* the importance of creating a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life for the effective integration of women in development;

5. *Urges* Member States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system to accelerate further efforts to increase the number of women in decision-making and to build their capacity as agents of change, and to empower women to participate actively and effectively in the development, implementation and evaluation of national development and/or poverty eradication policies, strategies and programmes, including, where appropriate, programme-based approaches;

6. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of national development strategies, and in this regard, calls upon the

[7] A/62/187.

United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

7. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in formulating national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

8. *Calls on* Member States to continue to increase women's representation and participation in government decision-making at all levels in development policy areas to ensure that the priorities, needs and contributions of women are taken into consideration by, inter alia, providing access to training; developing measures to reconcile family and professional responsibilities; and eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions;

9. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and the implications of violence against women and girls for the social and economic development of communities and States, and calls upon States to elaborate and implement plans of action to eliminate violence against women and girls;

10. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective in policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support developing countries' efforts in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

11. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

12. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypical attitudes to gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

13. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women, and to support women's access to legal assistance; and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

14. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

15. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their equal access to all levels of education;

16. *Urges* Member States to encourage women entrepreneurs, including through education and training of women in business, administration and information and communication technologies, and invites business associations to assist national efforts in this regard;

17. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, inter alia, through legislation and family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments, the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers and the provision of the necessary care for working women's children and other dependants and to consider promoting policies and programmes, as appropriate, to enable men and women to reconcile their work, social and family responsibilities;

18. *Urges* Member States to design and revise laws that ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital and appropriate technologies and access to markets, and information;

19. *Recognizes* the need to empower women economically and politically, particularly poor women, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, as well as to create opportunities for economic empowerment, in order to alleviate for women and girls the burden of time-consuming everyday tasks;

20. *Expresses its concern* at the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to violence, stigma and discrimination, poverty, and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis, and calls upon Governments and the international community to intensify efforts towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010;

21. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development,[8] integrating this goal into strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

22. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that, in order to build support for official development assistance, cooperation will be needed in further improving policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness;

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[8] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

23. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

24. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

25. *Stresses* the importance of collecting and exchanging all relevant information needed on the role of women in development, including data on international migration, as well as the need to develop statistics disaggregated by age and sex, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

26. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies;

27. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;[9]

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

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[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* and addendum (A/52/3/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (see A/62/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 26th and 33rd meetings, on 13 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.32 and A/C.2/62/L.51

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/62/L.32), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling*, its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, and 60/211 of 22 December 2005,

"*Recalling* also the World Summit on the Information Society,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/62/423 and Add.1-3.

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"*Stressing* that science and technology constitute a critical component of human resources development, which can enhance opportunities for social and economic development,

"*Noting* the immense technological gap between developed and developing countries and emphasizing the need to bridge it urgently,

"*Recognizing* that globalization, connectivity and interdependence have accelerated the pace of technological innovation, which requires countries to develop skills and knowledge needed to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological innovations,

"*Recognizing also* that developing countries have limited capacity to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological knowledge and innovation, and emphasizing the importance of assistance by the international community through financial and technical resources and in access to technology,

"*Stressing* the importance of facilitating cost-effective and equitable access to technological knowledge and learning,

"*Emphasizing* that education in science and technology is fundamental for technological knowledge and innovation, and recognizing the constraints faced by developing countries in this regard,

"*Stressing* the importance of effective use of science and technology in promoting human resources development in the context of national strategies focused on technological knowledge and learning, assisted by an enabling international environment,

"*Stressing also* that while Governments have the primary responsibility to define and implement such a strategy, there is need for the international community to provide full support to this effort,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* Governments to make technological knowledge and learning a priority of their human resources development strategies, and urges developed countries to provide access to advanced technologies at affordable rates;

"3. *Also encourages* Governments to build information and communications technology capacity to promote equitable access to and use of information and communications technology so as to improve professional competencies and technical skills and to create an enabling environment for lifelong learning, as laid out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, and reiterates the crucial role of the international community in fulfilling its commitments in this regard;

"4. *Stresses* the importance of investments in research and development in developing countries in order to develop a technological base and create knowledge and innovation relevant to local needs and in this regard calls for the provision of technical and financial assistance by the international community, including through collaborative research;

"5. *Strongly emphasizes* the need to establish strong links between relevant stakeholders in education and industry so as to ensure that educational curricula and programmes meet national science and technological needs, and calls for international support for higher education in developing countries;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of technical and vocational training in increasing technological learning and innovation and for promoting entrepreneurship for technological development;

"7. *Encourages* partnerships with subregional, regional and international networks and research facilities and other relevant institutions to optimize research efforts, facilitate cost-sharing and achieve mutual gains, and requests the United Nations system to assist in this regard;

"8. *Calls upon* the international community, including through the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries in formulating human resources development strategies that promote technological capability;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of human resource development strategies, particularly on lessons learned and the role of the international community in assisting these efforts;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Eradication of poverty and other development issues', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/62/L.51), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the 33rd meeting, the representative of Latvia, in his capacity as facilitator, orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003 and 60/211 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the World Summit on the Information Society,

Stressing that science and technology plays a critical role in facilitating human resources development, which can enhance opportunities for social and economic development,

Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the technological gap and to assist developing countries to access the potential benefits of science and technology for human resources development,

Recognizing that globalization, connectivity and interdependence have accelerated the pace of technological innovation, which enhances the benefits for countries that develop skills and knowledge needed to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological innovations,

Recognizing also that developing countries often have limited capacity to acquire, adapt and diffuse technological knowledge and innovation, and emphasizing the importance, where appropriate, of financial and technical assistance and resources from the international community and, as relevant, the fostering of international partnerships to enhance private sector technology transfers,

Stressing the importance of facilitating increased, cost-effective and equitable access to technological knowledge and learning, including through open trade and investment frameworks,

Emphasizing that education in science and technology is fundamental for technological knowledge and innovation, recognizing the benefits to all countries of making this an educational priority, and noting the constraints faced by some developing countries in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of science and technology in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Stressing the importance of the effective use of science and technology in promoting human resources development in the context of national strategies

focused on technological knowledge and learning, assisted by an enabling domestic and international environment,

Stressing also that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

Stressing further that health and education are at the core of human resources development and the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education,

Noting the impact of the movement of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education on human resources development and sustainable development in developing countries, and stressing the need for a global and comprehensive approach to maximize the positive impact of skilled labour mobility on human resources development,

Stressing that while the private sector plays an important role in the diffusion of applied science and technology, Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing a national strategy to promote technological knowledge and learning, with the support of the international community,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in fostering their human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Encourages* Member States to make technological knowledge and learning a priority of their human resources development strategies at all levels of education, formal and informal learning, emphasizes the importance of the capacity of educators in the technology learning process, and encourages the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to human resources development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of human resources development in promoting sustainable development, and encourages Governments to integrate human resources development policies into their national development strategies;

4. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

5. *Urges* the adoption of cross-sectoral approaches to human resources development, which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty

[1] A/62/308

eradication, the provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, the empowerment of women, the involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society and of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity in order to meet the challenge of development;

6. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources;

7. *Encourages* Member States to build information and communications technology capacity to promote equitable access to and use of information and communications technology in order to improve professional competencies and technical skills and to create an enabling environment for lifelong learning, and reiterates the crucial role of the international community in fulfilling its commitments in this regard;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to expand technical, vocational, craft and utilitarian science education to all sectors of society, especially to women and disadvantaged groups, and to promote their empowerment through the use of information and communications technology to facilitate more equitable access to training and education on science and technology;

9. *Stresses* that investment of human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on infrastructure and capacity development, including, inter alia, education, health and science and technology, including information and communications technology;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of investments in research and development in all countries, particularly in developing countries, to develop a technological base and create knowledge and innovation relevant to local needs, encourages Governments in this regard, where appropriate, to adopt trade, investment and regulatory regimes that promote private-public investment in research and development, and invites the provision of technical and financial assistance by the international community, including through collaborative research;

11. *Further stresses* the need to establish strong links between relevant stakeholders in education and industry so as to ensure that educational curricula and programmes meet national science and technological needs, and strongly encourages international support for science and technological education, including higher education in developing countries;

12. *Stresses* the importance of technical and vocational training in increasing technological learning and innovation and for promoting entrepreneurship for technological development;

13. *Encourages* partnerships with subregional, regional and international networks and research facilities and other relevant institutions, public and private, to optimize research efforts, facilitate cost-sharing and achieve mutual gains, and requests the United Nations system to assist in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to give priority to the objectives of human resources development through, inter alia, integrating in their development programmes explicit support for building science and technology capacities compatible with local needs, resources, culture and practices;

15. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system, including through public-private partnerships, to continue to support the efforts of developing countries in formulating human resources development strategies that promote technological capability;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of human resources development strategies, in particular on lessons learned and the role of the international community and other entities, including the private sector, in assisting these efforts;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".